2· Sanders E-5 (no date) 1949 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

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"Their round completed . . . the milkmen began . . . to retrace the long uphill journey from the city's outskirts to the village." *See page 5.*

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". . . in front of Bai Penko's tavern on the northern side of Renaissance Square." *See page 8.*

[Facing p. 4]

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"The priest could look past the modern school building . . . to the church just beyond." Sofia is in the background. *See page 8.*

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"Yurdan, the leading tailor . . . and his wife Zdravka were a unique couple." *See page 14.*

[Facing p. 5]

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travelers, dressed in their brightest, newest garments, were speeded on their way. The friends and relatives loaded them with money and presents of clothing, food, and wool, which the pilgrims were to donate to the great and holy monastery. The whole ceremony of leave-taking was made a part of the bright landscape by the flowers everywhere—on the dress of the pilgrims, fastened to the gifts, and carried in huge bunches. Upon their return a few days later the dusty pilgrims were met at the outskirts of the village and escorted home through the blue twilight by those eager to hear of every adventure during the days and nights in the great mountains, whose jagged walls have protected Rila Monastery for hundreds of years.

Formal piety, as shown in pilgrimages, was only one of the major characteristics which these Bulgarian villagers possessed. The Dragalevtsy people, especially the men, were predominantly literate. Bulgaria, despite what seems a forbidding Cyrillic alphabet, has the highest rate of literacy of all Balkan countries, a fact which can be attributed to the tendency to regard education as a panacea for individual and social ills. While only 44 per cent of the women over fifteen years of age could read and write, 92 per cent of the men were literate. Of course, I often came upon groups of peasants crowded around a friend slowly spelling out a newspaper article aloud, but these little clusters of attentive listeners originated because of the scarcity of newspaper subscribers, not necessarily because of illiteracy.

The Dragalevtsy people were also law-abiding. During the first three years I knew the village, and informants said that the record went much farther back than that, no Dragalevtsy peasant had been taken to Sofia for imprisonment. There was no local jail, nor any need for one. This was not a sign of the inefficiency of local police, but rather an indication of the peaceable and honest traits of the people.

In many other characteristics the villagers shared what have come to be known as the universal "rural virtues," for theirs was an agrarian way of life. More than three-fourths of the family heads were peasant proprietors. In addition to these, there were two other occupational groups: the intellectuals and the artisans. Despite their small number, the intelligentsia, as they were called by the peasants, were the most influential group in the community. Whenever the

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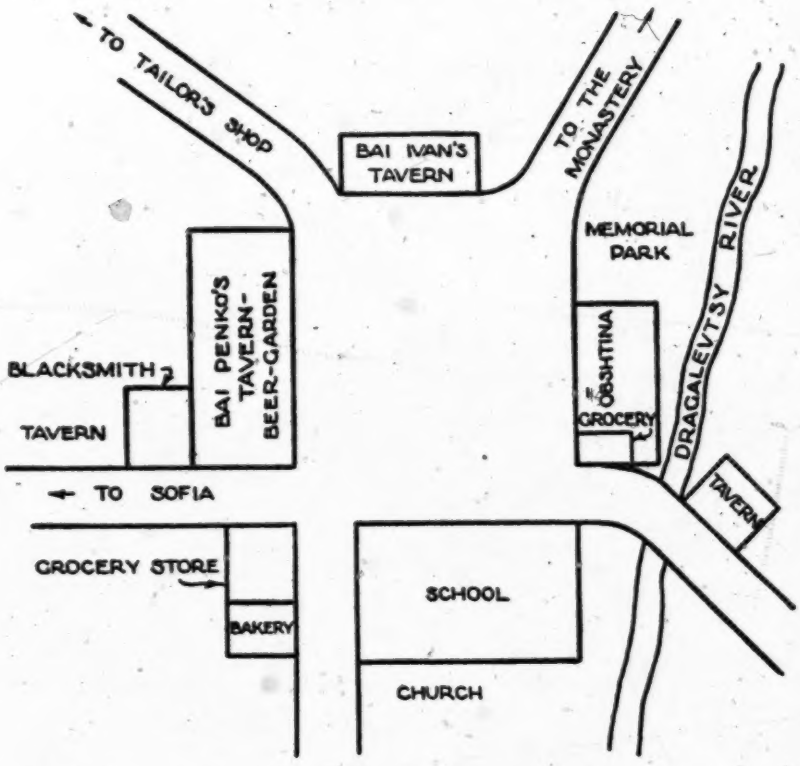

Renaissance Square, the focal point of Dragalevtsy's communal life

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weather was agreeable I was sure to find several of them playing cards in front of Bai Penko's tavern on the northern side of Renaissance Square, where the winter *horo* was held. Even though they sat engrossed in their game, they could still keep an eye on what was happening in the village, since this square was the focal point of community life. The mayor, for instance, could watch the Obshtina, or municipal building, across the square, as well as all traffic that entered this rocky plot of ground on its way to the city of Sofia below or to the monastery higher up Mount Vitosha. The priest could look past the modern school building, flanking the western side of the square, to the church just beyond. The village doctor's husband was near in

2: Sanders E-5 (no date) 1949 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

case his wife needed him, although he invariably grumbled in his native Russian upon being called away from the game. A fourth hand during the summer was a reserve army officer whose intense love for German efficiency and ideology and whose contempt for the "ignorant, unreliable peasant" became bywords in the community. Peasants sitting on the porch of Bai Ivan's tavern on the eastern side of the square could observe with seeming indifference the intelligentsia at play, distracted though they were at times by the fervent temperance lectures delivered by the tavern keeper's daughter-in-law whenever she placed a glass of *rakiyà* in front of a customer.

These intelligentsia proved to be interesting people. The mayor had a good education, completed by the study of law in Russia. His father had been a priest in Boyana, a village just four miles to the west, so the mayor, himself a *Shop,* knew the workings of the peasant mind. When he was sent to the village as mayor back in 1934, after the *coup d'état* of that year abolished all elections and deprived many local officials of their jobs, he issued a flowery proclamation which contained such thoughts as these:

> Therefore, as I take up my duties, desiring greatly to use the small abilities that I possess for the economic and cultural uplift of the villages included in the commune entrusted to my care, I wish to express my good feelings of loyalty and friendliness and attachment to the population and to certify that I am ready to work for the uplift of our commune and to be the loyal conveyor of its economic and cultural interests and needs.
>
> Imbued with the idea that we are all members of the same family, sons of mother Bulgaria, let us forget the recent past of shameful partisan struggles and begin to live as genuine brothers—Bulgarians filled with mutual love, patience, harmony, respect, and good will.
>
> Let us do our duty to these beautifully situated villages, perched on the slope of Mount Vitosha, and make them attractive gardens, with culture, and places of merriment and songs.

The people soon learned that the mayor when excited talked so rapidly that he failed to enunciate clearly, and they always enjoyed mimicking this mannerism. They did not particularly resent his management of their affairs, despite the fact that he had been sent by the central government which gave local communes no choice in

2:Sanders E-5 (no date) 1949 EEl Bulgaria EEl

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"Bulgaria is a man's country."
See page 95.

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"The neighborhood gossiping groups did much more than shock the girl into some of the realities of married life . . ." *See page 93.*

[Facing p. 97]

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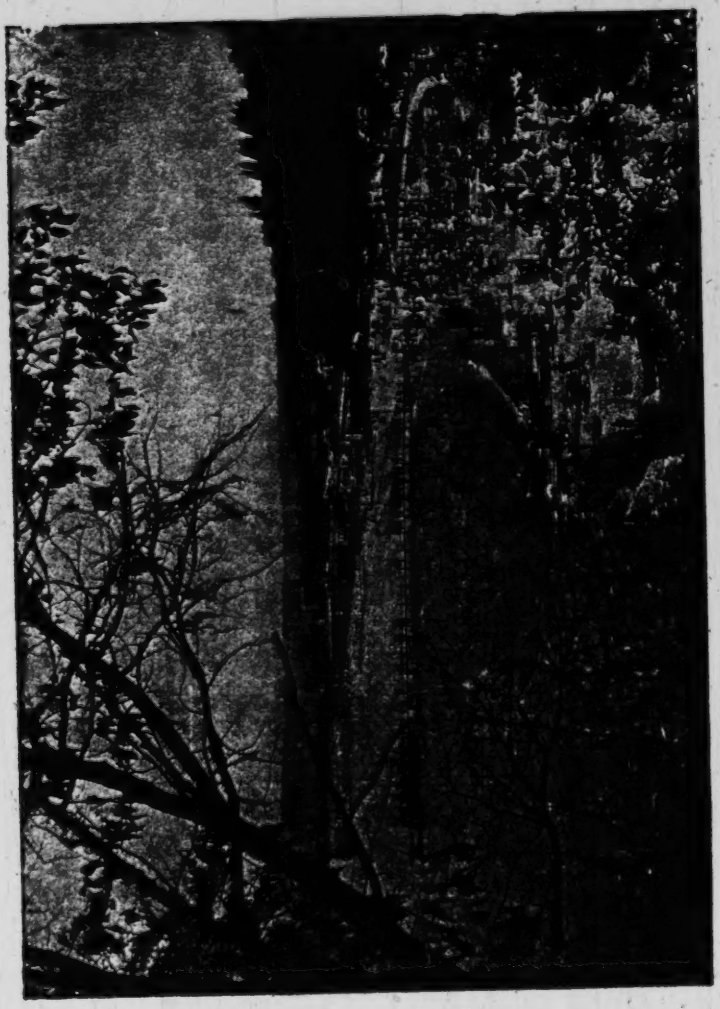

VARNA: A VIEW OF THE BEACH

[facing p. 16]

Il: Logio S-4 (no date) 1936 EEl Bulgaria EEl

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HISSAR: A VIEW THROUGH THE OLD ROMAN WALLS

[Facing P. 129

17: Thurnher E-4 (no date) 1956 EF6 Serbs EF6
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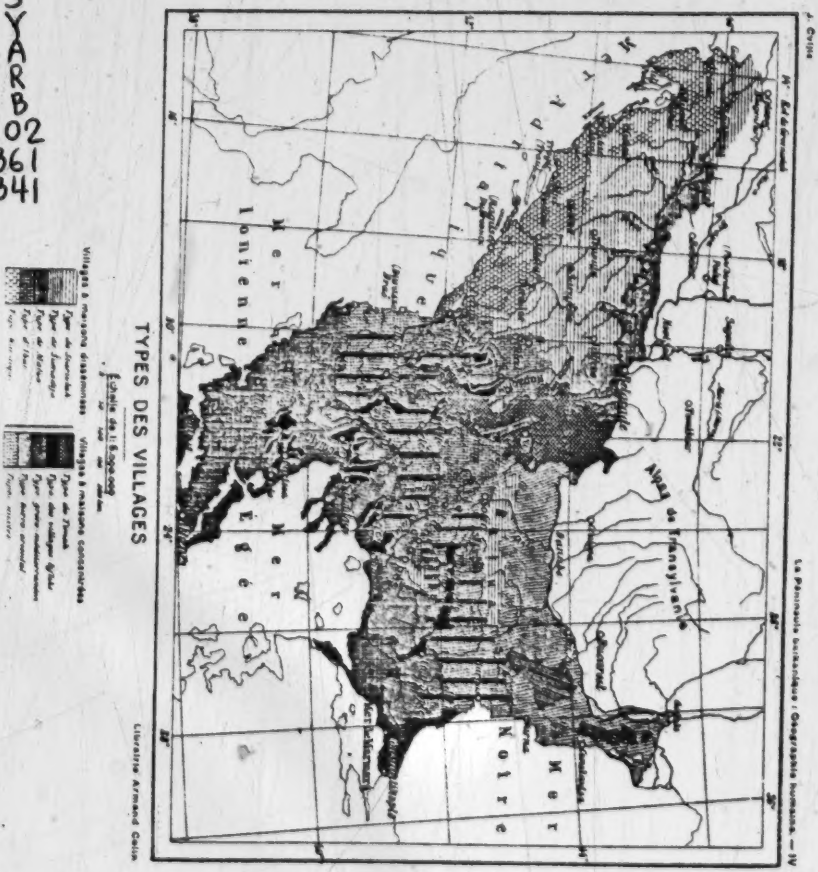

[P.86-R]

extends from the Rumanian border south to the towns of Karnobat and Burgas. 131

Location and Types of Settlement. The presence of water is an important factor in the location of the settlements. Villages tend to be located along the Marica, Topolnica Strema and Tundža rivers. In the Tundža Mountains settlements are on the slopes of hills. Isolated hills in the Marica valley are preferred spots. Settlements rarely descend into the fertile river plain, most of them being located at its edge (Gellert, 1937: 142-43). In the Sub-Balkan regions, settlements are rarely at the bottom of steep valleys or on steep slopes, a gentler terrain being preferred (Gellert, 1937: 143). 361 133 [312]

Due to the irregular terrain and deep valleys in the Topolnica and Ihtimanska Sredna Gora regions, the settlements are in the form of hamlets (mahala, kolibi) of 2-10 farmsteads, scattered over the spurs overlooking a valley in which is located the main village (Gellert, 1937: 168). In eastern Bulgaria the villages show no regular plan. In the plains the villages are large and the buildings less crowded, the roads being often exaggeratedly wide. In mountainous terrain the roads are narrow and crooked, often unsuitable for carts (Gellert, 1937: 164). [491]

House Types. In eastern Bulgaria the building materials are boards, wicker, mud and unfired brick. Usually a framework of wood is filled with wicker, which may or may not be plastered. Compact walls are often made of mud, unfired brick or stones, strengthened with horizontal bond timbers. These may form the foundation on which the upper story of timber-framing is built. The hipped roof is of straw, reeds or brushwood. On the longer side of the house the eaves extend over a veranda that is raised about 10 centimeters from the ground. The walls are generally whitewashed, and each room has an exit to the veranda. Chimneys are of woven brushwood or of fieldstones and are plastered with mud. Bulgarians often build one half of the house first and plan to add more rooms later; when one side of the roof is not hipped it means that the house is not finished (Gellert, 1934: 8). 342

A two to three room house is common. Often the veranda is between the protruding side rooms (fig. 56e). The central room is generally windowless and served as a winter kitchen. Frequently many farm units are included in the main house. One of the side rooms may be transformed into a stable with a separate entrance from the outside (fig. 56c) (Gellert, 1934: 8-9).

Two-story buildings are in the majority (fig. 56a, 56b). In the ground floor are the stable and cellar. Often annexes are built on the sides (fig. 56e) and the back, and the roof is extended over them. Here, too, the veranda is enclosed by the two side rooms. The stairway leading up to the veranda may be a simple one of wood or a massive one of unfired brick (Gellert, 1934: 10-11). While

9:Megas I, B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece
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342 These houses can still be seen only in the districts of Plevna and of the river Lom; but only a few years ago they were prevalent in the districts of Vidin and Bella Slatina, i. e. in the entire valley of the Danube, from the Serb frontiers to the Ossem River (1).

On the slope of the ground, a 4-5m. wide trench is dug, with an average depth of 1.80-2 m. Another trench is dug perpendicularly to the above, so as to form under the ground all the space necessary for the housing of the people and the cattle, and for the stores. The roof-

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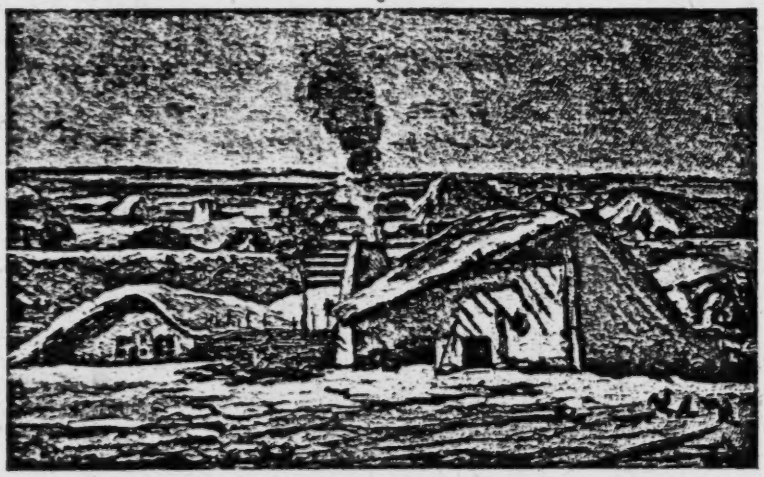

Fig. 49 A troglodyte village near the river Lom in Bulgaria.
(From a picture of the year 1892. Niederle, Manuel II 97).

ing of this lair is done through the help of a frame made of uplaned timber logs: these are placed obliquely, on horizontal beams supported in the middle by wooden poles. The logs are covered with thatch, which is spread over with mud or clay and then covered with earth, so that the roof has a thickness of one meter. The walls of the lair are covered with clay inside and then they are white-washed. The height of the interior of the dwelling is usually of 2 meters.

The arrangement of spaces is typical and may be seen in the

1) About the troglodyte houses, see also **T. Zlatev**, Balgar. kăsta p. 111 foll., **C. Jirecek**, Das Fürstenthum Bulgarien, 1891 p. 157, and **Niederle**, Manuel de l'antiquité slave 2, p. 97 and foll.

9:Megas I,B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1
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342 selves in the valleys of the Danube, found both troglodyte and sur-
SL face dwellings in use among the previous inhabitants of these areas,
[342] i.e. the Thracians, from whom Roumanians of Vlachia and Moldavia, and Albanians of the Skodra lake area took over these huts, called bordeiu(1).

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[361] More specially the Bulgars, who in their ancient home were living a nomad life, had no permanent houses. They lived just as the rest of Turanian peoples, in tents they put up in places where they could find pastures for their herds; when the pastures were exhausted, camps were dissolved and the tents carried with the nomads.

B
175 When, under the leadership of Asparuch, Bulgars established a
648 strong base in the Delta of the Danube and when, using this strong-
361 hold as a base, they occupied all the area between this river and the Balkan mountains, only then began the Bulgars to know the advantages of permanent installation. For a long time, however, they
G were wild fighters and lived on the peoples they subjugated, the old
175 Thracians, who had been hellenised, or latinised, and the other Greeks
648 and Slavs who had established themselves in those areas during the previous century(2). These Slavs, according to Procopius(3) and to
SL the Biography of Saint Demetrius(4), knew only how to build(5)
[342] «miserable huts» or «tents» besides the underground shelters mentioned above. The thousands of Greek prisoners who were kid-
B
[727] napped during the Bulgarian invasions were «drafted» into the in-

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1) According to **Fr. Nopcsa,** Albanien, 1925, p. 11 these underground dwellings of Roumania and Bulgaria represent the immediate descendants of the pre-historic and Roman housings of the Haimos peninsula. The writings on the tiles found in pre-historic dwellings have a Thracian character. Remains of Thracian tribes have been found despite the Illyric over-layer, both, in the Skodra lake and in Dardania. Dobroutcha has always been a Thracian area.

2) **D. Zakythinos,** Οἱ Σλάβοι ἐν Ἑλλάδι, Athens, 1945, p. 27 «The permanent installation of Slav tribes in the Balkan peninsula begins only during the first years of the 7th Century».

3) **Procop.** De bello Gotth. 3, 14: Οἰκοῦσι δὲ (Σκλαβηνοί τε καὶ Ἄνται) ἐν καλύβαις οἰκτραῖς διεσκηνημένοι πολλῷ μὲν ἀπ' ἀλλήλων, ἀμείβοντες δὲ ὡς τὰ πολλὰ τὸν τῆς ἐνοικήσεως ἕκαστοι χῶρον.

4) **A. Tougard,** De l'histoire profane dans les actes grecs des bollandistes. Paris 1874, p. 184, 190.

5) According to **Niederle,** op. cit. 2, p. 98, «it is easily understood that the Slavs used to build, besides the underground shelters (abris) which were covered by an additional wooden roof, light huts without any trenches on the model of the «koliba», built by the shepherds of the Karpathians and the Balkans, made of inter-woven branches of trees».

9:Megas I, B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1
Bulgaria EE1

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vader's country(1) and they were obliged not only to cultivate the land on behalf of their owners, but also to carry out all other work and naturally to build permanent houses which were necessary, since Bulgars were to establish themselves for good in these newly conquered districts.

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For a long time Bulgars had either the disposition nor the sense to learning arts and crafts. Even where they had abandoned their incursions and lootings and were giving themselves to peaceful occupations, as agriculture and stock-breeding, they did not take to the arts. The palaces and the churches of Bulgaria have been built by foreigners, especially by Greeks, such as the beautiful palace of Aboba near Schumen, which is a monument of Byzantine style of the 9th or 10th century(2). But even later, after the 15th century, when Bulgaria, accord-

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1) The Bulgarian inroads on Greek territories for looting and capture of prisoners began in the period of Asparouch (679-701) and continued till the reign of Michael (1246-1257). King Krum, when he captured Adrianoupolis in 813, took away all her inhabitants, as well as those of the surrounding areas, all amounting to 40.000, into Bulgarian territory to the North of the Danube. Another 50.000 prisoners together with other loot, were taken during the winter of the same year from Thrace (**W. Slatarski,** Geschichte der Bulgaren, I, Leipzig, 1918 p. 15,29). According to the Bulgarian historian **Ivan Sakazov** (Bulgarische Wirtschaftsgeschichte, Berlin u. Leipzig, 1929, p. 57 foll.) «Bulgaria was filled up with prisoners and cattle, which formed the Bulgarian national wealth and made their well-being possible. It was on this basis that the material civilization was formed, which Omortag, Krum's heir, bequeathed to his descendents.» Later (1206), during a battle near the Tountza river, when the Bulgarian Ioannitzis or Skyloyiannis was totally defeated by the Greeks, 20.000 prisoners together with 3.000 carts were liberated, while they were led towards Bulgaria together with a great amount of loot. See **Diog. Xanalatos,** Οἱ Ἕλληνες καὶ οἱ Βούλγαροι εἰς τὴν Μακεδονίαν καὶ Θρᾴκην. Α' Athens 1914 pp. 17, 22 etc. 33, 39, 40 etc. Cp. **K. Paparrigopoulos,** Ἱστορ. Ἑλλ. Ἐθνους 6th edition, tome 4, b, 186 and foll. t. 5, a 23. **K. Amandos,** Ἱστορία τοῦ Βυζαντινοῦ Κράτους Α' 1939 p. 411. Β' 1947, pp 5, 173, 426. Οἱ βόρειοι γείτονες τῆς Ἑλλάδος, 1923 p. 26 and 40 **Ant. Keramopoullos** Οἱ Ἕλληνες καὶ οἱ βόρειοι γείτονες, Athens 1945, p. 167 and foll. **G. A. Megas,** Ἀδριανούπολις ἡ πολυκρουσεμένη in the periodical Ἑλληνικὴ Δημιουργία t. I 1948 pp. 93 and foll.

2) **L. Niederle,** op. cit. 112. **C. Jirecek** says that: «Even in the best years of the Middle Ages, during the reign of Tsar Symeon, according to the evidence given by Joannis Exarchos, there were to be seen but straw-covered huts in Bulgaria, except for the palace of the king». Straw-covered huts in Bulgaria are also mentioned by Kantakouzinos, 1, 144, edit. Bonn.

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According to the Bulgarian historian **I. Sakazov,** op cit. p. 41, «The very beginnings of an economic organisation in Bulgaria appeared in the court of the Tsars and with the aristocracy, who were trying to imitate the Byzan-